

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MINUTES
7:00 p.m., Monday, April 12, 2010
Public Safety Building, 401 E. Third Street, Newberg, OR

“Mission Statement: To give the citizens of Newberg a forum to voice traffic safety concerns, evaluate related issues, provide a liaison with the City and promote traffic safety within the community.”

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Members

Present:	Chair Michael Simpson	Vice-Chair Jennifer Dawson	Doris Brandt
	Dianna Cotter	Ron Johns	Neal Klein
	James Oravetz	Ronald Sult	

Members

Absent: Lesley Woodruff (excused)

Staff

Present:	Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer	Mary Newell, Support Services Manager
	Tim Weaver, Police Sergeant	Larry Fain, CIP Manager/Senior Engineer
		Jennifer Nelson, Recording Secretary

Ex Officio

Present: Mayor Bob Andrews

Others

Present: Charity Sturgeon, Roger Grill, Lee Bigelow, Mark Wimmer, and Marissa Hardinger

CHAIR MICHAEL SIMPSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:01 PM.

A) Review and approve minutes of March 8, 2010

MOTION #1: Dawson/Sult to approve the Traffic Safety Commission Minutes for March 8, 2010 as amended. (8 Yes/0 No/1 Absent [Woodruff]) Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Ms. Charity Sturgeon, ACTS Oregon (Alliance for Community Traffic Safety), stated she came to introduce herself to the commission as she would be working with Commissioner Lesley Woodruff and the library staff on the bicycle safety mini-grant project.

OLD BUSINESS

B) Public Comment: Post-installation review of 4-way stops installed on Vittoria Way

TIME – 7:03 PM

This item was taken out of agenda order because number of citizens present to speak.

Mr. Paul Chiu, Senior Engineer, presented a brief staff report on the Traffic Safety Commission (TSC) limited decision from October 2009 to installed several 4-way stops on Vittoria Way between Hwy 99W and Springbrook Road, the traffic data collected as a six-month follow-up, and some of the feedback received from neighbors (see official meeting packet for full report). He specifically mentioned a letter received on April 1, 2010 from homeowner Mr. Robert Renne on Coffey Lane who commented his road has “turned into a freeway” as a result of this decision.

Mr. Roger Grill, a resident from Vittoria Way, thanked the TSC for installing the stop signs and spoke of both the reduction of speed and volume of vehicles since. He mentioned there are still a few drivers disregarding the stop signs and enhanced police presence would be helpful; but, overall the decision has made a huge difference.

Mr. Lee Bigelow said he has also noticed a decrease in traffic, but there are still people racing between stop signs and even blowing right through the one at the park; he hears horns and screeching tires there every day by 99W and Vittoria Way. He also mentioned his neighbor was in an accident recently in that intersection and noted that drivers are racing down Aquarius Boulevard now.

Mr. Mark Wimmer thanked the TSC for improving the quality of life for residents on Vittoria Way. He also agreed there was a decrease in traffic although several drivers are not adhering to the stop signs; he still thinks the right in, right out is the only option at Vittoria Way and 99W because that intersection is still too dangerous. He felt the intersection at Springbrook Road and Haworth Avenue was the reason why drivers are discouraged from staying on 99W.

Chair Simpson explained it is not as simple of a fix since it involves the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT).

Mr. Chiu spoke of this option of a right in, right out only being considered back in September to propose be completed in conjunction with an ODOT planned overlay on 99W, it was not pursued.

Commissioner Neal Klein asked staff about contacting ODOT to invite them to a work session for discussion of this right in, right out option since there seems to be some opposition.

Chair Simpson noted that some of the opposition also came from TSC members and some of the neighborhood because of the higher costs, larger amount of work, and because it affects more than just the whole neighborhood; it was more complicated to change major traffic patterns with this solution.

Commissioner Klein said he understood of the ultimate re-routing of that road is planned to take place when the proposed shopping development is constructed, but he would still like to see a discussion occur with ODOT in the interim because the problem is being pushed onto Aquarius Blvd. and Coffey Lane.

Commissioner James Oravetz added that as a resident of the area he has also witnessed the improvements with traffic on Vittoria Way as well as the movement of traffic onto Aquarius and Coffey, but he said this possibility was foreseen.

Mr. Wimmer said he was under the impression the City had already been approved for a right in, right out at that intersection.

Mr. Chiu replied it is approved according to City’s Transportation System Plan (TSP) so a motion is not needed, however it does require TSC approval and City Council as well to make it into radiance because it is more than

limited traffic decision and process could require excess permits. He said he could arrange for ODOT to attend a work session.

Mr. Wimmer said he felt a right in, right out would eliminate the problem for the whole neighborhood.

Chair Simpson replied that it would affect a lot more than just the neighborhood and suggested if he wished to further pursue the matter he should come back with a petition to show there is enough support to warrant another public hearing.

Mr. Wimmer added he just wanted to make sure money does not get spent on the wrong thing.

Mr. Chiu emphasized that based on a previous conversation with ODOT, any modification to the intersection would be 100% out of the City pocket and the cost is not financially feasible.

Ms. Marissa Hardinger expressed her appreciation for the significant decrease in traffic as a mother of two young children with one on way. She asked why a roundabout at Springbrook Road and Haworth was not installed instead of a 4-way stop; it seemed like a logical solution to the congestion in that area.

Chair Simpson explained that roundabouts are a newer concept in this area and the City was limited by the fact that one third of the area is privately owned, plus major funding is needed to modify existing road to that extent; with an 11% reduction in available street funds it just is not possible at this time.

Mr. Chiu said the lack of right away makes it difficult and noted it is eventually to become a 4-way signalized intersection. He added there have been a lot of improvements and a reduction of severe collisions since making that into a 4-way stop.

NEW BUSINESS

A) Street Program Funding

TIME – 7:29 PM

Mr. Chiu and Mr. Larry Fain, Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Manager/Senior Engineer, presented the staff report concerning an 11% drop in funding in the transportation budget despite population growth. Over the next twelve months all decisions requiring additional stop signs or construction whatsoever, now needs to go through the public works engineering staff to determine financial feasibility first.

Chair Simpson asked Mayor Andrews how much the TSC is restrained by staff deciding actions cannot be done as an appointed city commission.

Mayor Bob Andrews responded the TSC would be significantly restrained since it decisions are based on the City's budget. Because of these changes the general fund will be most vulnerable, so discretion is crucial during this fiscal cycle.

Chair Simpson clarified that the TSC should not withhold any decisions, but should just let people know completion of projects will be limited to the availability of funding.

Mayor Andrews agreed and added they would be looking more heavily to grant programs; but, he said not to plan on anything significant. He encouraged the TSC by adding that grants and stimulus dollars are often granted based on having "shovel ready" projects, so having projects designed and ready to go will help if and when dollars evolve.

Commissioner Klein requested staff provide the TSC members with a brief report on what the budget looks like as well as a comprehensive list of approximate costs associated with projects the TSC frequently recommends as solutions to traffic safety matters.

Mr. Fain suggested the TSC take on the problems presented to them as they have and report back to staff on each one for recommendations based on funding, which allows the commission to continue to operate and make decisions, but basically the City is in a static position with the transportation budget and only keeping up on maintenance of existing signs and pavement markings. He agreed staff could develop a generic price list based off of the decisions the TSC has made in the last two years.

Commissioner Jennifer Dawson suggested training willing volunteers to assist with some public works needs in the community. Staff spoke of the experiences in the past with volunteer use and the inefficiencies and liabilities associated with volunteers in the past.

OLD BUSINESS

A) TSC-10-006: Deborah Road School Zone

TIME – 7:51 PM

Mr. Chiu presented the staff report discussing a memo from Ms. Susan Walther expressing concern for signage in the school zone. The area was reviewed and it was determined the minimum requirements were met; staff will be going out again to determine if any signage is missing and will be replaced if necessary (see official meeting packet for full report).

Chair Simpson concluded that code enforcement and city staff have determined the City is within compliance.

Discussions followed about the need for education is the underlying problem with speeding in a school zone and actions like revoking parking rights on campus and other programs are relied upon to assist with alter driving behaviors, at least among student offenders.

STAFF REPORTS - GENERAL INFORMATION

A) Police Update

Police Sergeant Tim Weaver reported only a handful of golf carts had been registered within the year and no issues have been reported; he discussed the effects of budget cuts on the police department and the fact that the number of citations issued are down; he also discussed the upcoming Skid program events on April 27th.

Ms. Mary Newell, Support Services Manager, spoke about National Telecommunications Week and recognizing dispatch workers for their services.

B) Engineering update

Mr. Chiu gave updated on the Second Street project at Hwy 219 and Springbrook Road with the City Council considering awarding the Saunders Company the bid; a preconstruction meeting is anticipated and groundbreaking to occur in May. With the right in, right out at Hwy 219 and 2nd and 3rd Streets, ODOT has revealed plans from the developers consultant and approval from ODOT is pending; with permits construction could happen this summer and completed by September/October. The City Center Revitalization of College and First Street intersection has also begun.

C) Items from Commissioners

Mayor Andrews asked if the standard for pedestrians to walk against traffic has changed.

Sergeant Weaver stated it has not changed and pedestrians should walk against traffic for safety.

Commissioner Dawson stated she will out of town from April 22nd through May 1st.

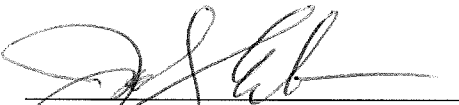
Commissioner Doris Brandt confirmed there will be a work session next month before the regular meeting starting at 6:00 PM.

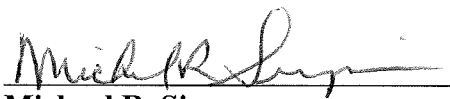
Chair Simpson encouraged all members to attend the Skid program event at the high school on April 27th if they have never attended one before.

ADJOURN TO NEXT MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM until May 10, 2010.

Approved by the Newberg Traffic Safety Commission this 10th day of May, 2010.


Jennifer L. Nelson
Recording Secretary


Michael R. Simpson
Traffic Safety Commission Chair